

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 MMO-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 ARA-10 MCE-00 /115 W
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O R 211050Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9692
INFO USCINCEUR
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII
USCINCSO
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CSA
CNO
CSAF
CMC
DISAM WP AFB OHIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 ABIDJAN 6878

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MPOL, XX
SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

REF: A. STATE 167901; B. STATE 168320

1. THE FOLLOWING IS KEYED TO SUBSECTIONS PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL A.
2. (3A1) IVORY COAST IS A FRIENDLY, PRO-WESTERN COUNTRY THAT FEARS SOVIET POWER AND HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT WESTERN RESOLVE TO COUNTER IT IN AFRICA. AN IMET PROGRAM FOR IVORY COAST WOULD THEREFORE SERVE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL AS WELL AS SECURITY-RELATED OBJECTIVES. IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT OF EXPANDING SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFRCCA, AN IMET PROGRAM WOULD BE A REASSURING
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SIGNAL TO IVORY COAST AND AN APPROPRIATE SIGNAL TO OTHERS OF U.S. INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF IVORY COAST. AN IMET PROGRAM WOULD PROVIDE CONCRETE AND NECESSARY TRAINING IN VARIOUS FIELDS FOR IVORIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL SUCH AS MARITIME AFFAIRS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT, HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION, MILITARY ENGINEERING AND POSSIBLY AVIATION MAINTENANCE TRAINING.

3. (3A2) PRESIDENT FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAS LONG PERCEIVED A THREAT TO IVORY COAST'S SECURITY IN SOVIET AFRICAN POLICIES. THIS PERCEPTION WAS RE-ENFORCED BY THE COLLAPSE OF THE WESTERN POSITION IN ANGOLA, THE TWO ATTACKS ON SHABA AND THE INCREASE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS. BESIDES A FEAR OF CLASSIC SOVIET INSPIRED SUBVERSION, HOUPHOUET BELIEVES THE SOVIETS WANT TO DESTABILIZE AFRICA IN ORDER TO PREVENT WESTERN ACCESS TO AFRICAN RESOURCES. HE THEREFORE BELIEVES THE SOVIETS SEEK TO AGGRAVATE REGIONAL DISPUTES AND THE DISAFFECTION OF IMPOVERISHED AFRICAN MASSES TO ENHANCE THEIR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES WORLD-WIDE. HOUPHOUET ALSO PERCEIVES A POTENTIAL FOR SOVIET OR CUBAN INSPIRED AGGRESSION ON IVORY COAST FROM GUINEA AND BENIN. HOWEVER, RECENT AND APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS AT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HOUPHOUET AND SEKOU TOURE HAVE PROBABLY LESSENED HOUPHOUET'S CONCERN ABOUT GUINEA. WITH RESPECT TO INTERNAL SECURITY, HOUPHOUET AND THE LEADERSHIP OF IVORY COAST DO NOT PERCEIVE A THREAT.

4. (3A3) WHILE WE WOULD NOT DISAGREE WITH HOUPHOUET'S OVERALL ANALYSIS OF THE THREAT OF SOVIET/CUBAN POLICY TO AFRICAN STATES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROSPECT OF DIRECT AGGRESSION ON IVORY COAST IS VERY HIGH. WE AGREE THERE ARE NO PRESENT INDICATIONS OF A THREAT TO THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF IVORY COAST.

5. (3A4) THE IVORY COAST HAS DECIDED THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE FORCE STRUCTURE TO MEET THE EXTERNAL THREAT IS A LIGHT INFANTRY
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FORCE (THREE INFANTRY BATTALIONS) SUPPORTED BY A SMALL AID/GROUND ELEMENT AND A RUDIMENTARY NAVY -- ACTUALLY A COAST GUARD. THIS FORCE IS AUGMENTED BY A BATTALION (APPROXIMATELY 500 MEN) OF FRENCH MARINES STATIONED NEAR ABIDJAN, WHICH IN TURN CAN BE SUPPLEMENTED BY INTERVENTION FORCES FROM FRANCE. THE INTERNAL SECURITY IS CONTROLLED BY THE 3,200 MAN GENDARMERIE (ALMOST THE SAME SIZE AS THE ARMY) WHICH HAS ORGANIC MOBILE PLATOONS AND IS EQUIPPED WITH RIOT CONTROL EQUIPMENT

6. (3A5) U.S. FORCE STRUCTURING SHOULD PROBABLY PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON THE TACTICAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE LIGHT INFANTRY FORCE AND THE GENDARMERIE AND NOT ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP A SOPHISTICATED AID/GROUND SUPPORT AIR FORCE. THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE ACQUISITION OF MORE HELICOPTERS AND STOL AIRCRAFT TO DEPLOY ELEMENTS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THE IVORY COAST. THIS CAN EASILY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE PURCHASE OF C-130 AIRCRAFT (ALREADY PLANNED, MORE HELICOPTERS AND ADDITIONAL MILITARY TRAINING (U.S. IMET)). IVORY COAST COULD BENEFIT FROM MORE JOINT SERVICE AND FORCE INTEGRATION TRAINING.

7. (3A6) IVORIAN DEFENSE SPENDING HAS REMAINED VERY LOW SINCE INDEPENDENCE. HOWEVER, SINCE THE VISIT OF THE FRENCH DEFENSE

MINISTER IN JANUARY 1978 THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED "SECRET"
SPENDING, WHICH IS NOT REFLECTED IN THE IVORIAN ORDINARY BUDGET.
THE FRENCH SEEM TO SHARE THE IVORIAN PERCEPTION OF AN EXTERNAL
THREAT AND POSSIBLY SEE ADVANTAGES TO THEIR OWN EXTERNAL DEFENSE
POLICY. THE ANNOUNCED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES OF THE IVORY COAST

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FOR 1978 ARE \$68,802,978 OPERATING BUDGET AND \$79,813,043 INVEST-
MENT BUDGET, WHICH COMBINES TO FORM ALMOST TWO PERCENT OF THE
PROJECTED 1978 GDP. THE "SECRET"DEFENSE BUDGET HOWEVER IS CLOSE
TO \$225,000,000 AND IS BELIEVED TO BE LARGELY FUNDED BY FRANCE.
THE 1978 IVORY COAST PROJECTED GDP IS \$7.6 BILLION. PER CAPITAL
GDP IS ESTIMATED AT \$1,000 FOR 1978. THE 1977 TRADE BALANCE HAD
A SURPLUS OF \$433 MILLION TOTAL DISBURSED EXTERNAL DEBT WAS \$1.87
BILLION AS OF 1 JANUARY 1978. FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AVERAGED
\$246 MILLION IN 1977.

8. (3A7) THE DEFENSE ITEMS BOUGHT FROM THE UNITED STATES OVER
THE NEXT THREE YEARS WILL BE NEGLIGIBLE AS FAR AS U.S. GOVERNMENT
FUNDS ARE CONCERNED. THE IVORY COAST MAY PURCHASE TWO C-130
AIRCRAFT (COMMERCIAL SALE) ALONG WITH A BASIC SPARE PARTS AND

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PERSONNEL TRAINING PACKAGE IN FY-79 OR FY-80. U.S. EMBASSY ABIDJAN RECOMMENDS A \$50,000 IMET PROGRAM EACH YEAR FOR FY-80, 81 AND 82. (WE REALIZE THAT FY-80 FUNDING MAY HAVE TO COME FROM "FALLOUT FUNDS," BUT WE ARE CERTAIN THE IVORIAN NAVY WILL AGAIN APPROACH US WITH A REQUEST -- WHICH WAS DEFERRED IN FY-78 -- TO SEND SOMEONE TO THE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL OFFICER'S COURSE AT THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE).

9. (3A8) THE C-130 AIRCRAFT PURCHASE, WHICH IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF COMMERCIAL NEGOTIATION AT THIS TIME, WILL BE USED BY THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MOVEMENT OF CIVILIAN AS WELL AS MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. THE C-130 AIRCRAFT WILL BE VERY USEFUL IN THE NATION-BUILDING ROLE OF THE MILITARY. THE IVORY COAST IS IN THE PROCESS OF MERGING ITS CIVIL (AIR IVOIRE) AND MILITARY (GROUP AERIEN DE TRANSPORT ET LIAISON-GATL) AIR SERVICES. THE \$50,000 A YEAR IMET WOULD BE USED TO TRAIN NAVY PERSONNEL IN THE MANAGEMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPING, PORT AND POLLUTION CONTROL, SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS, AND COASTAL SURVEILLANCE. COURSES WOULD ALSO BE SOUGHT AT THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL FIELD SERVICE SCHOOL IN THE AREA OF HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION. THERE ARE PRESENTLY FIVE MILITARY OFFICERS SERVICE AS HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE LARGEST HOSPITALS IN THE IVORY COAST. THE U.S. ARMY IS UNLIKELY UJJVIFIED TO GIVE EXCELLENT PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TO THIS VITAL FUNCTION. WITH ITS ACQUISITION OF U.S. C-130 AIRCRAFT THE IVORY COAST WOULD ALSO BENEFIT FROM THE EXCELLENT U.S. TECHNICAL/MECHANICAL AVIATION COURSES OFFERED BY THE U.S. ARMY AND AIR FORCE. ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH AN IMET PROGRAM WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL TO THE IVORY COAST WOULD BE IN BASIC MILITARY ENGINEERING. THE IVORIAN CIVIC SERVICE IS A PART OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND HAS ITS OWN ORGANIC ENGINEER BATTALION (THREE COMPANIES), WHICH ENGAGES IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS

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OF AGRICULTURE, ROAD AND AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION AND BRIDGE BUILDING. ALL OF THE ABOVE IMET COURSES WOULD BENEFIT THE IVORIANS WHILE GIVING THE U.S. AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFER TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE AND PROJECT ITS INFLUENCE INTO A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF IVORIAN SOCIETY.

10. (3JBOL THE PURCHASE OF C-130 AIRCRAFT SHOULD HAVE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE IVORIAN ECONOMY; AND IN THE "LONG-TERM" THE ECONOMIC EFFECT SHOULD BE FAVORABLE. REPORTEDLY, LOCKHEED JETCRAFT CORP.

IS LOOKING FOR A SITE TO ESTABLISH A WEST AFRICAN MAINTENANCE BASE,
AND IF THE IVORY COAST PURCHASES C-130 AIRCRAFT THE BASE COULD
BE ESTABLISHED IN ABIDJAN. DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE IVORY COAST
WILL BE AIDED BECAUSE OF THE DUAL CIVIL/MILITARY CAPABILITY OF
THE C-130 AIRCRAFT. LIKEWISE, THE RECOMMENDED IMET PROGRAM IS
DIRECTLY RELATED TO IVORIAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELDS OF TRANS-
PORTATION, MEDICINE AND CIVIC ACTION. THE EFFECT OF THIS TOTAL
P
XGRAM ON THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES OF THE IVORY COAST WOULD
BE NEGLIGIBLE.

1. (3A10) BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE IMET PROGRAM IT WILL NOT
CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE IN THE WEST AFRICAN REGION NOR WOULD
IT INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT. IT WOULD NOT HAVE
PREJUDICIAL EFFECTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 ABIDJAN 6878

12. (3A11) WE DO NOT BELIEVE AN IMET PROGRAM WOULD HAVE ANY
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON IVORY COAST'S EXCELLENT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.
ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT EXPOSURE OF IVORIAN MILITARY
PERSONNEL TO AMERICAN SOCIETY WOULD RE-ENFORCE THEIR COMMITMENT

TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

13. (3A12) THE BULK OF IVORIAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED FROM FRANCE. ALTHOUGH THE IVORY COAST IS GRADUALLY EXPANDING ITS SEARCH FOR OTHER MILITARY MATERIAL SUPPLIERS, IT STILL INVARIABLY GIVES FRANCE PREFERENCE FOR PURCHASES. FRENCH GRANT MILITARY AID IN 1977 WAS ESTIMATED AT \$7.5 TO 8.5 MILLION WHICH INCLUDED SUPPORT OF 118 FRENCH MILITARY ADVISERS IN THE IVORY COAST, THE TRAINING OF APPROXIMATELY 200 IVORIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN FRANCE, AND THE SUPPLY OF A LIMITED AMOUNT OF MILITARY MATERIAL. THE
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LIMITED IMET PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD IN NO WAY DISPLACE THE FRENCH AS THE TRADITIONAL SOURCE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE, BUT WOULD ALLOW THE IVORIANS TO BROADEN THEIR CHOICE OF OPTIONS. EVEN THOUGH FRANCE IS ACTIVELY TRYING TO SELL THE TRANSALL C-160 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE U.S. C-130, THE REMAINDER OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE WOULD PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO IVORIAN FORCE DEVELOPMENT.

14. (3A13) THERE IS CURRENTLY NO U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE IVORY COAST, THEREFORE, THERE IS NO MINIMUM LEVEL TO BE REDUCED. THE PROPOSED \$50,000 IMET PACKAGE SHOULD BE VIEWED AS THE MINIMUM LEVEL. THE PURCHASE OF C-130 AIRCRAFT IS NOT DISCUSSED BECAUSE THE IVORIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PURCHASE THE AIRCRAFT IF THEY SO DESIRE -- AND IF THEY FIND FINANCING. UNDER THE U.S. PROGRAM THE IVORY COAST WILL BENEFIT FROM ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT GOALS (TRAINING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS), AND THE U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DESIRE TO ASSIST THE "MODERATE" AFRICANS PROVIDE FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE IN THE FACE OF THE USSR/CUBAN THREAT. THERE IS NO FORESEEN RISK TO THE U.S. NOR CONTRADICTION TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. BENEFITS TO THE IVORIANS AND THE U.S. FAR OUTWEIGH THE RISKS.

15. (13F) THERE WOULD BE NO AUGMENTATION OF THE USDAO. HOWEVER, CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL WOULD HAVE TO BE OBTAINED TO ALLOW FOR DOD ADMINISTRATION OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

16. (13H) IMET TRAINING FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE TO EIGHT STUDENTS IS REQUESTED BECAUSE: (1) THE IVORY COAST DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY; (2) THE U.S. WOULD GAIN POLITICALLY FROM THIS PROGRAM OF TRAINING PERSONNEL IN THESE NECESSARY FIELDS; (3) FRANCE, THE TRADITIONAL SUPPLIER, IS PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN BASIC COMBAT ARMS AND COMBAT SUPPORT TRAINING; AND (4) WHILE THE IVORY COAST IS A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING COUNTRY, IT IS STILL POOR AND NEEDS U.S. ASSISTANCE.
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TANCE.

17. (13I) THE CHIEF OF MISSION ESTIMATES THE PROGRAM LEVEL
REQUIREMENTS WILL BE:

	FY80	FY81	FY82
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IMET:	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
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